



CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL R. TURNER
TENTH DISTRICT OF OHIO
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For Immediate Release
October 8, 2013

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Turner: Wright-Patterson AFB Furloughed Workers Deserved to be Paid

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Mike Turner, Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, issued the following statement after his concerns over Department of Defense civilian personnel receiving furlough pay.

“Nearly 400,000 civilian workers were unnecessarily and unilaterally furloughed by The President. These hard working men and women should not be punished because the Administration was willing to use them as a bargaining chip in this political showdown.

These civilian employees have returned to their jobs despite the fact the budget impasse continues, further underscoring they should not have been furloughed in the first place. Now that they are allowed to return to work, I want to make sure they receive all furlough pay and allowances they deserve.

I have written to the President and Secretary Hagel, they must ensure all Department of Defense civilian personnel receive the compensation owed to them for the period of time in which they were subject to a Presidential furlough.”

NOTE: A copy of the letter sent to President Obama is below and attached to this message.

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October 8, 2013

President Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I have serious concerns about the furloughed Department of Defense civilian employees and their ability to receive all pay and allowances for the days they were forced to stay at home. As you know, Congress passed and you signed the Pay Our Military Act that appropriated money allowing not only uniformed military but also civilian personnel to work and receive pay in the event of a government shutdown.

Your Administration initially ignored the clear and express language of the Pay Our Military Act leading to the unnecessary furloughing of nearly 400,000 civilian employees across the Department of Defense. Most of these employees have now returned to work, despite the government shutdown. This further underscores the point that they should never have been furloughed in the first place.

These men and women work hard for the Department of Defense to strengthen our national security and should not be punished as a result of the Administration's unilateral decision to temporarily lay them off following the shutdown. It is my sincere hope that you and Secretary Hagel uphold the intent of Congress and ensure employees receive all furlough pay and allowances they deserve.

I respectfully request an immediate response so that we may guarantee that this issue is resolved in a timely manner and civilian employees will not have to continue to suffer during this budgetary showdown.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Chuck Hagel